IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Geoffrey B. Rhoads

Application No.: 10/003,717

Filed: October 22, 2001

For: WATERMARK ENCODING USING
        ARBITRARY FEATURES (as amended)

Examiner:

Date: June 11, 2002

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ORIGINALLY FILED

Art Unit 2621

Confirmation No. 4166

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the subject application as follows:

In the Title:

Rewrite the title to read --WATERMARK ENCODING USING ARBITRARY FEATURES--

In the Claims

Add new claims as follows:

--15. Method of determining a segmentation into distinct regions of a set of coefficients representing at least part of an image in order to insert a set of watermarking signals with a predetermined cardinal, characterised in that it includes the steps of: generating a set of acceptable segmentations, calculating for each acceptable segmentation a probability of error on the detection of the watermarking signals inserted in said each acceptable segmentation, and selecting a segmentation in the set of acceptable segmentations by minimising, on all the acceptable segmentations, the